Exploitation of PIOs

†2180. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion has been held on the issue to exploitation of persons of Indian origin and protection of their human rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether international treaties are big hurdle in this direction; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to bring these issues under the purview of National Human Rights Commission?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, reports are often received about the exploitation of overseas Indian workers at the hands of unscrupulous employers and intermediaries. To lay down a framework of bilateral cooperation to address this problem, the Government has signed labour MOUs with the major receiving countries like the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Malaysia. These MOUs also provide for a joint working group to resolve bilateral labour issues.

(c) and (d) India is a party to the core international conventions on human rights namely — International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000. These conventions/treaties facilitate the protection of human rights of Indians, that includes PIOs and are in no way an obstacle/impediment.

Workers returning due to work loss

2181. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian workers working abroad are forced to return to India due to loss of work in the respective countries for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of above workers who returned to India from various countries for the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, country-wise, category-wise; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to rehabilitate the above workers and the fund allotted and spend for the same in last five years, year-wise, State-wise, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Ninety percent Indian emigration is to the Gulf Countries. Indian workers return after the period of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

employment contract. Indian Missions in Gulf Countries have informed that there is no report of large scale return of Indians even in the context of the global economic slowdown. The report from United Arab Emirates (UAE) indicates that, though the exact figure is not available, about 50,000 to 1,50,000 emigrants have returned because of delay in execution of projects. They have come on leave without pay expecting to return when the economic situation improves.

(b) Such information is not maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment in RTI Act

2182. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some reservation against the proposal has been expressed by several quarters; and

(d) if so, in what manner it proposed to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. In this regard, it is proposed to review the second schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005 and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities. Government has received representations expressing doubts about the proposed amendments. Non-Government Organisations and social activists will be consulted on the proposed amendments.

Cases forwarded to CBI by Maharashtra

2183. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that have been forwarded to CBI for investigation by the State Government of Maharashtra since 2001 along with the list of such cases;

(b) the details of such cases that have been investigated and completed so far;

(c) the number of cases pending with CBI untouched; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of